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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,360	10/15/2001	Rebecca Ferris		6883

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COASTAL SYSTEMS STATION
DAHLGREEN DIVISION
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER
6703 W HWY 98 CODE CP2L
PANAMA CITY, FL 32407-7001

EXAMINER

ALI, MOHAMMAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2177

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/981,360

Applicant(s)

FERRIS ET AL.

Examiner

Mohammad Ali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
 Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2004.
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on March 12, 2004.

Claims 1-9 are pending in this Office Action.

After a further search and a thorough examination of the present application, claims 1-9 are remain rejected.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered, but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

First, Applicants argue that Farley and Greene, VII do not teach, "storing information related to operational activities of warfare mission".

In response to Applicant's arguments, the Examiner respectfully submits that in particular, Farley teaches this limitation as challenger activities questions and the user responses are stored individually by session in the operation (see col. 10, lines 32-49). Farley does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation of "warfare mission". However, Greene, VII cures such deficiencies by teaching rapid identification of objects is critical in applications as an electronic warfare in which the appropriate assets must be activated in real time to be effective, see col. 2, lines 39-43, Lohman. It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art, at the time of the present invention to combin the teaching of the cited references. The teaching of warfare mission by Greene, VII's would allowed Farley's system to organize data representing an object attribute characteristic as a plurality of interval sets, as suggested by Greene, VII at col. 1, lines 47-51. Further, Warfare mission as taught by Greene, VII would

improve all sets that contain elements are quickly identified on the fly (see col. 2, lines 54-57 et seq, Greene, VII).

Second, Applicants argue that Farley and Greene, VII do not teach, “information related to data associated with operational activities”.

In response to Applicant’s arguments, the Examiner respectfully submits that in particular, Farley teaches this limitation as applied responses associated with the question and each available response has a corresponding vector code, which define the branching activity that occurs when the response is selected by the end-user, see col. 24, lines 62 to col. 25, lines 2.

Third, Applicants argue that Farley and Greene, VII do not teach, “storing information related to organizations”.

In response to Applicant’s arguments, the Examiner respectfully submits that in particular, Farley teaches this limitation as a database having a relational data base structure where client information is organized by subject, topics within a subject, subtopics within each topic, sub-subtopics within each subtopic, etc. Each of these various levels of content is comprised of the multiple, cross-referenced categories of information associated with it, see col. 13, lines 44-49.

Fourth, Applicants argue that Farley and Greene, VII do not teach, “database and information management system arrangement”.

In response to Applicant’s arguments, the Examiner respectfully submits that in particular, Farley teaches this limitation as administrative control provides system security defining four specific user types, each having specific access capability with

respect to what can be read or written from, or what can be written to, the various files of each system in the database, see col. 5, lines 38-42 et seq.

Hence, Applicants arguments do not distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art of record.

In light of the forgoing arguments, the 103 rejections are hereby sustained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Farley et al. ('Farley' hereinafter), US Patent 5,257,185 in view of Lynn Greene, VII ('Greene, VII' hereinafter), US Patent 5,727,204.

With respect to claim 1,

Farley discloses a database and information system arrangement for use in designing an architecture for a mission (see col. 10, lines 32-50), comprising:

Farley teaches a first section for storing information related to operational activities of said mission (see col. 10, lines 35-50, Fig. 1B);

Farley teaches a second section coupled to said first section for storing information related to data associated with said operational activities (see col. 10, lines 48-67); and

Farley teaches a third section coupled to said first section and said second section for storing information related to organizations permitted to carry out said operational activities and for storing information related to storage locations for said data (see col. 4, lines, 3-9 and col. 23, lines 31-41 et seq).

Farley does not explicitly indicate the claimed "warfare mission".

Greene, VII discloses the claimed warfare mission (rapid identification of objects is critical in applications as an electronic warfare in which the appropriate assets must be activated in real time to be effective, see col. 2, lines 39-43 et seq).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art, at the time of the present invention to combined the teaching of the cited references because warfare mission of Greene, VII's teachings would have allowed Farley's system to

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organize data representing an object attribute characteristic as a plurality of interval sets, as suggested by Greene, VII at col. 1, lines 47-51. Warfare mission as taught by Greene, VII improves all sets that contain elements are quickly identified on the fly (see col. 2, lines 54-57 et seq, Greene, VII).

As to claim 2,

Farley teaches wherein said first section comprises: a description section describing each of said operational activities (see col. 10, lines 48-50 et seq)

Farley teaches a sequencing section describing a sequence for said operational activities (see col. 10, lines 35-67); and

Farley teaches an issue section for storing information related to problems associated with said operational activities (see col. 10, lines 48-53 et seq).

As to claim 3

Farley teaches wherein said first section further comprises a rating section for storing performance characterizations of said operational activities (see col. 18, lines 32-43, Fig. 42).

As to claim 4,

Farley teaches wherein said second section comprises: an identification section for identifying types of said data (see col. 15, lines 1-7 et seq); and

Farley teaches a definition section for storing detail information related to each of said types of said data (see col. 10, lines 48-53 et seq).

As to claim 5,

Farley teaches wherein said third section includes: a listing section for storing a list of said organizations (see col. 10, lines 48-53, Abstract);

Farley teaches a hierarchal section for defining authoritative relationships within each of said organizations (see col. 6, lines 30-38); and

Farley teaches an assignment section coupled to said definition section for identifying said storage locations for each of said types of said data (see col. 15, lines 1-7 et seq).

With respect to claim 6,

Farley discloses a database and information system arrangement for use in designing an operational architecture for a mission (see col. 10, lines 32-50), comprising:

Farley teaches an operational process section describing operational activities of said mission, a sequence for said operational activities, problems associated with said operational activities and performance characterizations of said operational activities (see col. 10, lines 35-50, Fig. 1B);

Farley teaches a data section for identifying input data used by said operational activities and output data resulting from said operational activities (see col. 10, lines 48-67); and

Farley teaches an organizational section for identifying an organizational hierarchy and assets used to carry out said operational activities and for identifying storage locations for said input data and said output data (see col. 4, lines, 3-9 and col. 23, lines 31-41 et seq).

Farley does not explicitly indicate the claimed "warfare mission".

Greene, VII discloses the claimed warfare mission (rapid identification of objects is critical in applications as an electronic warfare in which the appropriate assets must be activated in real time to be effective, see col. 2, lines 39-43 et seq).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art, at the time of the present invention to combined the teaching of the cited references because warfare mission of Greene, VII's teachings would have allowed Farley's system to organize data representing an object attribute characteristic as a plurality of interval sets, as suggested by Greene, VII at col. 1, lines 47-51. Warfare mission as taught by Greene, VII improves all sets that contain elements are quickly identified on the fly (see col. 2, lines 54-57 et seq).

As to claim 7,

Farley teaches wherein said data section includes a data relationship section identifying relationships between said input data and said output data used by said operational activities (see col. 6, lines 30-42).

As to claim 8,

Farley teaches wherein said data relationships section includes an importance section identifying relative importance of said input data and said output data used by said operational activities (see col. 10, lines 48-53 et seq).

As to claim 9,

Farley teaches wherein said data section includes a detail section for defining security classifications, categorical classifications, categorical hierarchies and

update information associated with said input data and said output data (see col. 6, lines 30-42 et seq).

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad Ali whose telephone number is (703) 605-4356. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30am-4:30pm.

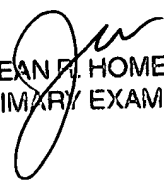
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790 or TC 2100 customer service (703) 306-5631. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.


Mohammad Ali

Patent Examiner

March 15, 2004


JEAN P. HOMERE
PRIMARY EXAMINER